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BE KIND TO YOUR WOOL CLOTHES

Broadcast by Ruth Van Deman, Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics, and Wallace Kadderly, Radio Service, in the Department of Agriculture's portion of the National Farm and Home Hour Wednesday, November 17, 1943, over stations associated with the Blue Network.

VAN DEMAN: This is Ruth Van Deman.

KADDERLY: And this is Wallace Kadderly. Ruth, what's your good word?

RUTH VAN DEMAN: My good word is- be kind to your wool clothes.

KADDERLY: So they'll help to keep you unfroze-

VAN DEMAN: That your very best poetry, Wallace?

KADDERLY: No, that's only my second or third best.

VAN DEMAN: Well, I hope you do better by your second or third best coat... brushing, airing, hanging, cleaning, pressing, and resting it.

KADDERLY: Resting it?

VAN DEMAN: Yes, wool needs a rest between wearings. Wool is a fiber with a lot of natural spring in it, as you will know, Wallace, having grown up in sheep country. That natural resistance of the wool fiber gives wool cloth its quick come-back. Wrinkles will often disappear from a wool garment with a good shaking and brushing...and a day or two of hanging in the closet.

KADDERLY: But don't put wool clothes in the closet damp.

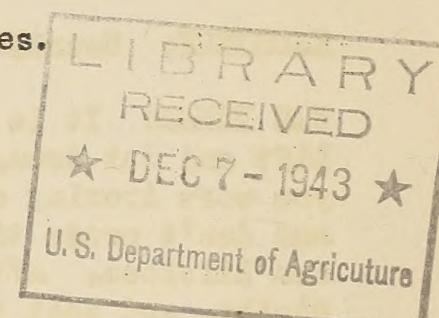
VAN DEMAN: Getting wool wet is harder on it than many of us think. Especially if the wool's dried too fast, close to a hot stove or a hot radiator. That fast and furious drying has a tendency to make wet wool felt, ... mat down ... lose its springy quality.

KADDERLY: And once wool's stiff and boardy, it isn't nearly so warm. It seems to lose some of its properties as a good insulator - to keep the warmth of the body in and keep cold out.

VAN DEMAN: I think one good result of the war is to make us all more clothes-care conscious. I notice more people wearing raincoats to keep their wool suits and coats from getting wet. And due to shortage of labor in dry cleaning establishments, more of us are doing our own pressing.

KADDERLY: I understand there's a trick to pressing wool.

VAN DEMAN: You're right there is - a right and a wrong. This folder of ours "Take Care of the Wool you Have" gives the right way. The main idea is to steam press, not dry press. A steam iron is a big help in pressing wool. But if your house doesn't happen to have one now.....



(Over)

KADDERLY: And I'm very sure we don't.

VAN DEMAN: Then you can do a pretty satisfactory wool pressing job with an ordinary iron, and two or three good press cloths - one cotton, one wool.

KADDERLY: Why one of wool?

VAN DEMAN: The woolen one goes next to the wool coat, or trousers, or whatever you're pressing. You have the woolen press cloth dry ... at least at the start. Then you put a damp heavy cotton cloth on top, and go to work with a warm iron. Notice I said warm not a sizzling hot iron. The steam works its way down through both press cloths to the wool you're pressing.

KADDERLY: Sounds like giving it a kind of steam bath.

VAN DEMAN: It is practically. And there's a right and wrong way to use the iron. Lift and set down. Lift and set down. Don't slide the iron back and forth as if you were ironing something. If you do, you'll make your wool flat and shiny. And don't press till all the moisture is gone either. That will leave wool hard and lifeless. After you've forced steam through the wool, lift off the press cloths, and beat the steam out the garment.

KADDERLY: Beat it out?

VAN DEMAN: Yes, beat it with your hand like this. If you were a professional you'd have a wooden clapper to do it with.

KADDERLY: It's a cinch, I'm no professional at pressing wool clothes.

VAN DEMAN: Well, there's always a chance to listen, read, and learn - and here's the folder to help you. See ... "Pressing Makes Perfect"...

KADDERLY: Nothing like having a standard to shoot at when you're a beginner. ... Well Farm and Home friends, this leaflet "Take Care of the Wool you Have" seems to be full of helpful suggestions on conserving wool - not only clothes, but blankets, carpets, all sorts of articles made of wool. And this folder's free to any one who writes for it. Address your post card to Home Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. Ask for the care of wool folder.